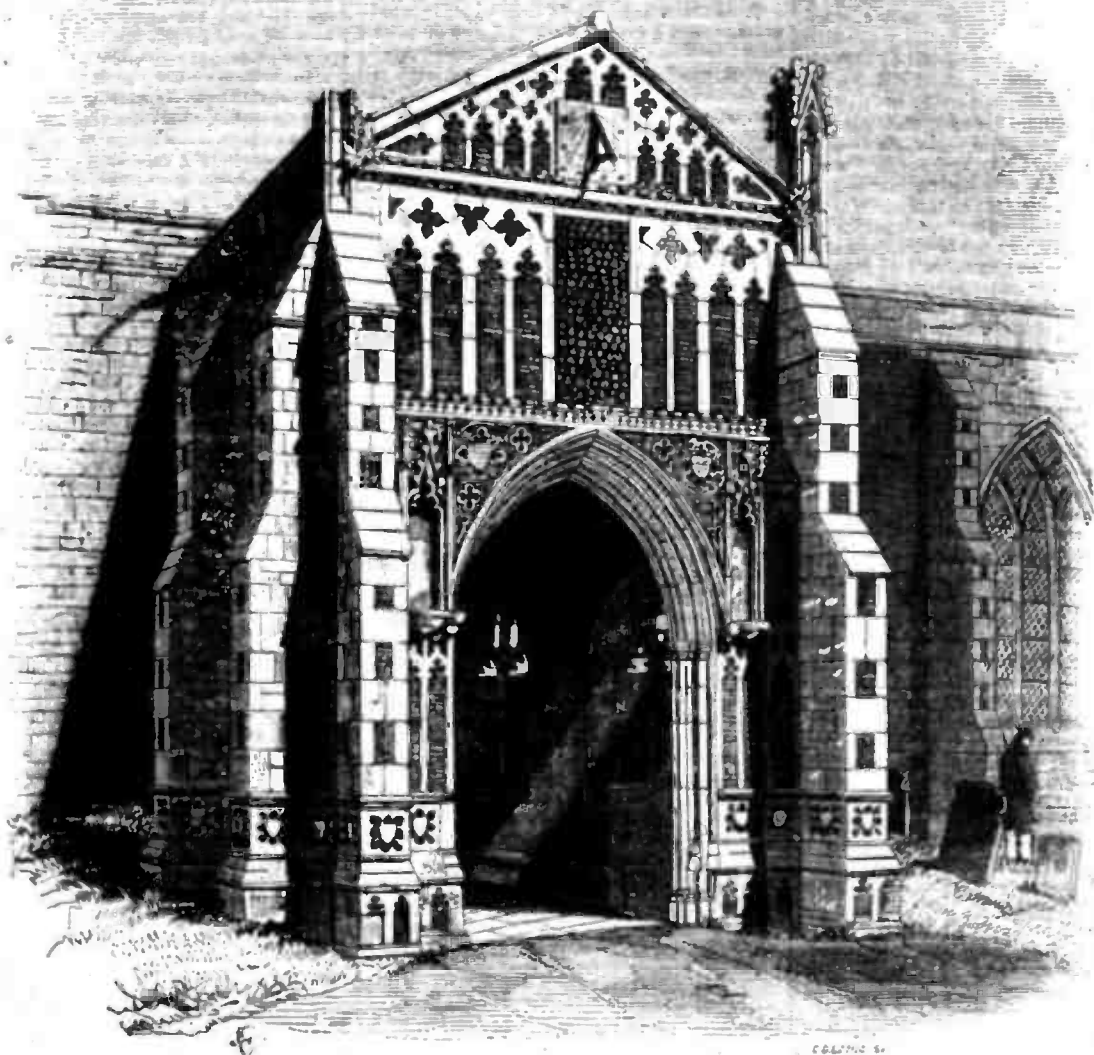


SOUTH PORCH, NORTH WALSHAM CHURCH, NORFOLK.



THE SOUTH PORCH, OF NORTH WALSHAM CHURCH, NORFOLK.

THE church of North Walsham is large, and mostly of a plain decorated character. It has nave and aisles, covered by a triple roof. The chancel has aisles, being, in fact, a continuation of the nave and aisles, there being no external division or mark to separate the eastern portion of the church from the western; but internally the chancel and the aisles were anciently divided from the nave by screens. The lower part of what was the rood screen is still remaining, and contains some good spandrels, very delicately carved: it also has the remains of painting and saints in the panels. The aisles were divided from the chancel by screens, as chapels. The nave piers are good, and of lofty proportions. The roofs are open, but very plain and rough. There is an enormous west gallery; yet behind it there is a vacant space large enough for an ordinary church, where the parish-engine and ladders are kept: here, too, near the south door, is the font, enclosed by a wooden railing, having a very good carved oak cover.

The south porch, the subject of the present engraving, is of a later character than the main body of the church, being of good perpendicular

design. It is of a great size, and is open to the roof, never having been divided into two stories, as was frequently the case in large porches of this style. The part which is blocked up above the archway was, probably, a niche. The panelling on each side, and in the gable, buttresses, and pinnacles is filled in with the squared flint-work, so common among the churches of Norfolk. The flank has two windows, divided by a buttress, but they are bricked up as high as the springing.

The tower of the church is large, situated at the west end, and was of a great height, but is now in ruins. It was struck by lightning about a hundred years ago, since which time it has been gradually disappearing. A few years ago a great portion was obliged to be taken down. There is still, however, sufficient standing on the side next the church to stop the roof of the nave.

JAMES K. COLLINS.

We append the following additional items of information.

On the north side of the chancel, near the east end, is a mural monument to the memory of Sir William Paston, knight, a native of the town, founder of the Grammar School, and ancestor of the first Earl of Yarmouth. It was erected during his life, by John Key, a

freemason of London, who, by agreement dated 1607, undertook to fit up the tomb with an effigy of the knight in armour, 5½ feet long, for the sum of 200*l*. Sir William died a few months after making this agreement, aged 80 years. The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas.

The living is a vicarage, with the rectory of Antingham St. Mary annexed, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk and diocese of Norwich. King Edward the First, in his twelfth year, granted a licence to the Abbot of Holm to appropriate it, but this was not performed till December 9, 1338, when Anthony, Bishop of Norwich, appropriated it to the Convent of Holm, and it was to be transferred on the death of Roger de Hales, the then rector. On this event taking place the vicarage was formed, and the patronage was settled to be in the Abbot of Holm. The Lord Chancellor has the gift at present, and its annual value is estimated at 336*l*.

The town of north Walsham is situate on the high road to Norwich, and consists of three streets, diverging from a central area, in which stands the church. It is about 15 miles N.N.E. from Norwich, and 124 N.E. by N. from London. When the last census was taken it contained 2,635 inhabitants.